

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Boucher Votes for Clean Car Legislation



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk, and other area legislators voted to adopt California vehicle standards requiring more clean fuel cars to be sold in Connecticut beginning in 2007 with 2008 automotive models. These would include hybrid gasoline-electric cars or alternative fuel vehicles.

Rep. Boucher noted that all Connecticut counties currently fail to meet the latest federal air quality standards.

She said, “This type of bill cannot come at a better time. This legislation makes good common sense, it is being adopted in other states, and I am looking forward to Connecticut enacting it into law as soon as possible.”

Rep. Boucher added, “I have been a long time supporter and a co-sponsor of legislation. After years of listening to the many bills trying to stem the growth of air pollution in what some call the worst air quality in the country, I believe this bill cannot come too soon. Although we may not be able to control the nearly 50% of the pollution that comes to Connecticut from other states, we can try to affect automobile emissions over time. Cars account for 40% of our air quality. Asthma is at an all time high in our state.”

This bill, SB 199, requires the Connecticut commissioner of environmental protection to adopt, by December 31, 2004, regulations implementing California's emissions standards for light duty motor vehicles, and to update those regulations in conformance with changes California makes. The bill explicitly authorizes the commissioner to regulate motor vehicle emissions for other vehicle classes.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines light duty vehicles as passenger cars capable of seating 12 or fewer passengers. It defines light duty trucks as trucks with a maximum loaded weight of 8,500 pounds.